

Nursing And Health Policy Perspectives

COVID-19: Looking to the future of nursing: innovations & policy recommendations

Sue Turale RN, DEd, FACN, FACMHN 

Editor in Chief, International Nursing Review
Visiting Professor, Faculty of Nursing, Chiang Mai
University, Chiang Mai, Thailand
Email: inreditor@icn.ch



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The impressive work of nurses, midwives and other health and emergency workers is far from over in the COVID-19 pandemic. But opportunities to learn from adversity are being explored and enacted in many settings and locations. Many ideas, opinions, research findings, innovations in practice, and policy recommendations are described in this Special Issue of International Nursing Review, The Official Journal of the International Council of Nurses in Switzerland. The contents will help inform educators, policymakers, health reformers, researchers, governments, leaders and practitioners about nursing's future. On International Nurses Day 2021, we dedicate this issue to the memory of the yet unknown number of nurses and midwives around the world who have died during this pandemic.

Keywords: COVID-19, innovation, International Nurses Day, nursing research, policy

These are turbulent times, and on International Nurses Day (IND) 2021 this journal pays tribute to all those who have laboured to save lives during this pandemic, often during exceedingly difficult circumstances. Nurses have comforted the sick and dying, delivered babies, and helped to keep communities safe, often at personal risk to themselves and their families. Tragically, too many have been infected with SARS-CoV-2, and suffered health problems or been traumatized by their experiences. An unknown number of nurses and midwives have died in the course of their duty and we dedicate this Special Issue to their memory. Without nurses being at the heart of health care, the world's populations would have been at greater risk.

It has been an honour to lead the team at INR to publish this Special Issue on International Nursing Day 2021. It contains a

wide variety of articles: COVID-19 experiences, policy and health perspectives, education, research, opinion pieces, short communications and a literature review that will help inform future practices in nursing and health care. In keeping with INR's mandate to be a voice for the international nursing community, authors in this issue are based in Canada, China, Korea, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, The Caribbean, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Two articles are from global nursing leaders, the first being an interview with Ms Elizabeth Iro, Chief Nursing Officer, World Health Organization. She describes her experiences of the critical work undertaken and ongoing in pandemic response by WHO and in conjunction with the International Council of Nursing (ICN), the International Confederation of

Midwives, and other important nursing and midwifery and health organizations around the world. The second is from ICN President Annette Kennedy. Her article chronicles the work of ICN over the past 16 months of the pandemic with a wide variety of organizations, individuals, government and non-government entities. Lobbying, communicating, sharing knowledge and practices and fact-gathering have formed a large part of ICN's intense work, especially with National Nursing Associations around the world.

Two other articles celebrate nurse leaders and their work, the first revealing the location of a medicine chest of Florence Nightingale in Canada. The second article focuses on the sustained contributions of the late Professor Serara Khupe-Mogwe, honoured for her development of nursing in Botswana. In a special tribute to IND, a poem from Claire Su-Yeon Park, a Korean doctoral student in Canada, has been

included as a call for nurses to consider the essence of their scholarly publications.

Thank you to all those involved in bringing this issue to publication for I know that many of you have experienced unique and unforeseen pressures in the difficult times of the pandemic and during lockdowns. This includes all the authors and researchers who worked on projects and undertook writing that will be a valuable addition to nursing knowledge around the world. I am also grateful to INR Associate Editors, Dr Pamela Mitchell and Dr Tracey McDonald, the Editorial Board members and the international team of reviewers who gave feedback to authors, and helped with editorial decisions, as well as members of ICN staff and the production and publishing teams at John Wiley & Sons.